

## **CLAIMS**

I claim:

1. A stacking device comprising:  
  
a stacking surface having a configuration for supporting at least one supported article of manufacture stacked on top of said stacking surface; and,  
  
and a support surface opposite said stacking surface, said support surface having a configuration for direct communication with at least one supporting article of manufacture below said support surface.
2. The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said support surface comprises a polygon having a surface area which exceeds a surface area of said at least one supporting article of manufacture.
3. The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said support surface comprises an ellipse having a diameter which exceeds a diameter of said at least one supporting article of manufacture.
4. The stacking device claim 1, wherein said stacking surface and said support surface comprise a machine washable material.
5. The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said stacking surface and said support surface comprise a heat resistant material suitable for use in an oven.

6. The stacking device of claim 1, wherein said at least one supporting article of manufacture is a wire mesh shelf.

7. A stacking system comprising a plurality of stacking devices, each of said stacking devices comprising a stacking surface having a configuration for supporting a supported article of manufacture stacked on top of said stacking surface, and and a support surface opposite said stacking surface, said support surface having a configuration for direct communication with a supporting article of manufacture below said support surface, wherein at least two of said stacking devices comprise differing surface areas for supporting articles of manufacture of different shapes and sizes.